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NEWS ITEMS

The Rocky Mountain Herbarium has had collectors during the season in several of the western states. Professor Aven Nelson, accompanied by two of his students, J. Francis Macbride and Dorman Bennitt, spent the latter part of June and the early part of July in southwestern Idaho and northern Nevada. Through the courtesy of the Forest Service men connected with the Humboldt Forest, Mr. Macbride was enabled to remain in the field throughout the season, working various districts in that forest. The collections from these two states are in duplicate and will be worked up as rapidly as circumstances will permit.

Mr. Ernest P. Walker, another student of the University of Wyoming, has been collecting since late June, in southwestern Colorado, in Paradox Valley. He has extended his observations into the adjacent mountains of Utah. These collections are also in duplicate, and, it is hoped, will be available before the end of the school year.

Dr. H. W. Anderson has been appointed Rose professor of botany at Wabash College, and Professor J. S. Caldwell, of the University of Nashville, has accepted the professorship of botany in the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.

R. Heber Howe, Jr., of the Thoreau Museum, has received the degree of Docteur de l'Universite from the Sorbonne for research carried on at that university during 1911-12. His thesis was on the "Classification de la Famille des Usneaceae dans l'Amerique du Nord."

The following appointments are announced at New Brunswick, N. J.: Mr. J. P. Helyar, seed analyst of N. J. Agricultural Experiment Station and instructor in botany at Rutgers College; Mr. C. A. Schwarze, assistant state plant pathologist, N. J. State Board of Agriculture; Mr. G. W. Martin, assistant plant pathologist for the experiment station; and Miss Marion G. Pleasants, laboratory assistant in the botanical laboratory of the experiment station.

Miss Jean Broadhurst, of Teachers College, Columbia Uni-

versity, has a year's leave of absence and is spending the time at Cornell University studying plant physiology and bacteriology.

Professor Hugo de Vries planted a tree and delivered a lecture for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden on September 14. On September 16 he lectured on "Experiments in Mutation" at the New York Botanical Garden. In the evening a dinner was given to 26 botanists in honor of Professor de Vries by Professor R. A. Harper, of Columbia University.

Professor Geo. R. Lyman will spend a year's leave of absence from Dartmouth College as lecturer on botany at Harvard University, carrying the work of Professor Roland Thaxter, who is to visit Trinidad and neighboring islands.

Professor Charles A. Shull, for the past five years in charge of biology in Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky., has been appointed assistant professor in the botany department of the University of Kansas, where he will give the courses in plant physiology and genetics.

Extensive changes are being made in the biological department at DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind., that will give increased capacity for the work of the department. The lecture room will be more than doubled in size and the laboratories will be far better lighted than formerly.

Mr. T. W. Moseley, assistant in agricultural botany in the University of Nebraska has returned from the University of Chicago, where he was taking work in plant physiology during the summer.

Mr. F. E. Miller, of the University of Missouri, was appointed assistant horticulturist at the Virginia Truck Experiment Station and entered upon his duties September 1, 1912.

Mr. Ray E. Torrey, recently an assistant in the department of botany at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, will teach biology at Grove City College this year.

On July 16 Dr. George H. Shull, of the Station for Experimental Evolution, lectured at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, on "The bearing of cross and self fertili-

zation in heredity and evolution." He also took occasion on the same trip to visit the Bussey Institute of Harvard University.

Professor J. J. Thornber, botanist to the University and Experiment Station of Arizona has just returned to his work after a twelve months leave of absence. Professor Thornber has spent the past year at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C., where he has been engaged in writing a manual of the flora of Arizona.

Mr. J. S. Cooley, assistant in plant pathology in the Virginia Experiment Station, will occupy a fellowship at the Missouri Botanical Garden during the coming academic year.

A botanic garden of one and a half acres is being developed at Grinnell College, Iowa, under the direction of Professor Henry S. Conard. It is primarily a teaching garden, and now contains about 300 species and varieties of herbs and shrubs.

Miss Elena R. Prats, who recently graduated from Columbia University, has accepted a position as instructor in biology in the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts of the University of Porto Rico.

Professor Thomas H. Macbride, professor and head of the department of botany, State University of Iowa, has been granted leave of absence for the year 1912-13, and is spending the year in botanical exploration in the western states. The latter part of the summer was spent in a mycological survey of the region near the snow line of Mt. Ranier with special reference to the *Myxomycetes* of that locality.

Mrs. Blanche Trask, of Los Angeles, California, who has brought to light many interesting facts about the peculiar flora of Santa Catalina Island, is recovering from a long illness, and is shortly to return to Santa Catalina to pursue further field studies.

Mr. F. Tracy Hubbard, of the Gray Herbarium, spent the summer in the study of the Gramineae at the grass herbarium of the United States Department of Agriculture and in field work in Maryland and Virginia.

Professor A. S. Hitchcock, systematic agrostologist of the

United States Department of Agriculture, has gone to the West Indies for the purpose of studying and collecting grasses. He is accompanied by his son, Albert E. Hitchcock, as assistant. They will go first to Jamaica and later to various points in the Windward Islands, probably visiting last the island of Trinidad.

Dr. F. D. Heald, until recently professor of botany at the University of Texas, has moved to the University of Pennsylvania to accept the position of pathologist of the Chestnut Tree Blight Commission.

Professor Guy West Wilson, of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, was awarded a research scholarship at the New York Botanical Garden for the month of September to aid him in his researches on parasitic fungi. Mr. Wilson will continue his work during the year as a graduate student of Columbia University.

We learn from *Science* that the late Mr. Allan Octavian Hume, known as an ornithologist and botanist, bequeathed about £14,000 to the South London Botanical Institute, to which in 1907 he gave £10,000.

The botanical work at the University of North Dakota is being extended this year under the direction of Dr. Melvin A. Brannon. Miss Norma Pfeiffer, of the University of Chicago, and Miss Mabel Olson have been made assistants. A teaching and experimental greenhouse is being constructed and a liberal addition is being made to the equipment of the physiological laboratory.

Dr. Vladimir Doubiansky, conservator of the Imperial botanical gardens at St. Petersburg, who is now travelling with the geographers, spent a day at the University of Washington, looking over the botanical equipment at that institution.

Dr. Edith M. Twiss, assistant professor of botany and dean of women in Washburn College, has been promoted to the position of professor of botany.

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton have returned from the island of Bermuda, where they have been spending a month with Mr.

Stewardson Brown, of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

Professor A. F. Blakslee has a year's leave of absence from the Connecticut Agricultural College. He has a temporary appointment on the staff of the Carnegie Station for Experimental Evolution at Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., N. Y., where he will spend the year in research work on the lower fungi.

Dr. Ira D. Cardiff, professor of botany in Washburn College, has been appointed professor of plant physiology and plant physiologist of the Experiment Station of the Washington State College at Pullman.